



Washington School for the Deaf

February 27, 2009

Middle School News

Social Studies

The 5th and 6th grades reflected upon what they learned from the Mock Trial unit. Below are some of their comments:

It is important for jurors to pay attention.

Plead the 5th amendment if you might look guilty.

Witnesses talk about what they saw.

I learned what a judge does.

I learned how to give a presentation.

Multi-Grade

Students continue to practice basic skills. We have added hand-writing/keyboarding practice during the week. Students copy a short paragraph about what's happening that day. Then go to the computer and type it to practice keyboarding skills. They staple the 2 papers together and turn them in.



Writing

Both 7th and 8th grade students have been writing personal stories about friends and family. Eventually we will compile a class book of all stories. 5th/6th B read and discussed Thundercake, a nonfiction picture book by Patricia Polocco. Students used this book to get more ideas for their own nonfiction picture books. 5th/6th A read chapter 14 of Hatchet. Be sure to ask your child about this exciting novel.

Reading & Writing

April and Jenn did some team teaching about ASL Poetry in order to prepare students for the upcoming Flying Hands ASL Poetry Competition. We discussed what we already knew about ASL poetry, listed the various types of ASL poems, and viewed examples of the three types of poems middle school students are expected to create for the competition:

1. Rhyme/Repetition/Handshape
2. Personification
3. Deaf Experience

Students may work individually or with a partner to create original poems.

Upcoming Events:

Challenge Games of Clark County—March 24th. MG students will be participating.

Flying Hands ASL Poetry & Art Competition—March 26th, 12:00 pm

Tips for Parents

Another recommendation from the National Council of the Teachers of English (NCTE) on ways to support writing at home:

- Encourage (but do not demand) frequent writing. Be patient with reluctance to write. Recognize that the desire to write is a sometime thing. There will be times when a child "burns" to write; others, when the need is cool. But frequency of writing is important to develop the habit of writing.

***Recommendation taken from the NCTE website, www.ncte.org

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Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Write us a note and send it back with your child.
